MINUTES

OF THE

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH

ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Original Bear Creek Primitive Baptist Association

- 1947 -

HELD WITH

HIGH HILL CHURCH

UNION COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

SEPTEMBER 19, 20, 21, 1947

OFFICERS

ELDER V. V. WILLARD, Moderator

BROTHER M. C. MILLS, Clerk

PRESTON HELMS, Assistant Clerk

PROCEEDINGS

The one hundred and fifteenth session of The Original Bear Creek Primitive Baptist Association met with High Hill Church, Union County, North Carolina, Friday, September 19th and continued through Saturday and Sunday following.

At 10:15 A. M. the congregation assembled in the house and engaged in songs of praise, after which services continued with prayer by Elder Fred Stewart of the Mud Creek Association of Alabama, followed with introductory sermon delivered by Elder J. R. Wilson, Martinsville, Va., pastor of High Hill Church. Text, 2 Thess. 2:16-17.

After an hour for serving refreshments, the Association met in the house, sang songs of praise, then continued with prayer by Elder H. P. Copeland.

Messengers and Brethren then proceeded to business as follows:

Elder V. V. Willard, Pastor of High Hill Church, served as Moderator and Brother M. C. Mills, Clerk of High Hill Church, served as Clerk, and called Preston Helms as Assistant Clerk, and also called Elders C. M. Mills and H. P. Copeland to assist with reading.

1. Invited all Orderly Baptist who are in good standing in their home churches to seats with us.

2. Called for letters from Sister Churches, which were handed in, read and their status noted.

High Hill Church represented by full membership.

Liberty Hill: Brethren C. C. Furr, Homer Poplin, Fred L. Honeycutt and Vance Hatley.

Pleasant Grove: Brethren A. E. Broom, J. M. Williams, Claude Mills and Brice Stegall.

Union Grove: Brethren F. L. Baucom, Jeff Taylor, Oscar Wooten and Sanford Medlin.

Mt. Creek: Brethren Cicero Taylor, Willie Soloman, George Hope and Virgil Soloman.

Lawyers' Springs: Brethren T. M. Helms, Grant Sikes, Graham Horne and Cletus Marsh

Union: Brethren W R. Coley, Louie Johnson, Guy Johnson and T. B. Polk.

Bethel: Brethren R. O. Lewis and W. T. Bell and Sisters Mary Tompkins, R. R. Best and Dorothy Halks.

High Point: Brethren Gilmer Mitchell, Fair Willard, Clifton Willard and L. E. Morefield.

Mills Chapel: Brethren Clyde Caudle, W. M. Nance, Floyd Simpson and Lee Nance.

Meadow Creek: Brethren R. M. Hatley, Charlie Furr, Claud Hathcock and D. M. Hathcock.

Watson: Brethren Preston Helms, E. V. Baucom, J. T. Simpson and David Helms.

Pleasant Hill: Brethren Elsie Auman, Rankin Richardson and Sam L. Arrington.

3. Called for Petitionary Letters. None presented.

The Moderator, Elder V. V. Willard, was authorized to appoint Committees on Preaching and Finance.

Committee on Preaching: Elder C. M. Mills, Brethren Vann P. Helms and Robert Horne.

Committee on Finance: Brethren S. H. Edwards, Ellis Honeycutt, Sanford Medlin, A. E. Broom and L. E. Morefield.

5. Called on Presbyteries to report.

By request and authority of High Point Church of High Point, N. C., a Presbytery was formed by the following: Elders V. V. Willard, C. M. Mills, F. F. Eggleston and J. P. Via, together with a number of Deacons and ordained Brother Brooklyn Willard to the full work of the Gospel Ministry on August 24, 1947.

By request of the Church at Mills Chapel, Kannapolis, N. C., Elders V. V. Willard, C. M. Mills, S. J. B. Dallis, Hoyle Simpson and J. D. Hopkins and several Deacons, formed a Presbytery and ordained Brother John Rutledge a Deacon of that Church, April 19, 1947.

Authorized by Mt. Creek Church, the following ministers with several Deacons, Elders C. M. Mills, V. V. Willard, J. D. Hopkins, S. J. Dallas and Hoyle Simpson, organized a Presbytery and ordained Brother Cicero Taylor to the work of a Deacon, April 19, 1947.

6. Invited Messengers and Visitors from Corresponding Associations to seats with us.

Silver Creek: Elder Orvin Huffman and Sisters Mary Huffman and Ann Huffman.

Dan River: Elders J. R. Wilson, W. H. Oaks, W. H. Lewis, F. F. Eggleston and J. D. Hopkins and Brethren J. S. Minter and wife, J. J. Minter and wife, John L. Wilson and Sam Walton and Sisters Lewis Byrd and Andrew Ashley.

Little River of North Carolina: Elders J. T. Lewis, J. S. Stephenson, E. L. Ferguson and Brethren J. S. Collings and Stokes Lawrence.

Little River of Georgia: Elders W. E. Cagle, T. V. Mann and M. M. Morton.

South Arkansas: No Intelligence.

Mt. Zion: Elders H. P. Copeland, J. E. Ketchens, Sister H. P. Copeland.

Tennessee-Nolachucky: Elder Shade Tipton, Sister Shade Tipton.

Sequachie Valley and Collins River: Minutes.

7. Invited Brethren and Sisters from Sister Associations who do not carry formal correspondence with this Association to seats with us.

Ebenezer of Georgia: Elder J. B. Loyd and wife and Brother John F. Lord and wife.

Original Towaliga: Elder E. D. Spiers.

Mud Creek of Alabama: Elder Fred Stewart.

Antioch of Fla.: Brother Floyd Raley.

8. Appointed Messengers to visit Sister Associations as follows:

Silver Creek: Elders Hoyle Simpson and V. V. Willard.

Dan River: Elders V. V. Willard and Hoyle Simpson.

Little River of North Carolina: Elder C. M. Mills, Hoyle Simpson and Brother C. J. Mullis.

Little River of Georgia: Elders C. M. Mills and V. V. Willard.

South Arkansas: Minutes.

Mt. Zion: Elder C. M. Mills.

Tennessee-Nolachucky: Elder C. M. Mills.

Sequachie Valley and Collins River: Minutes and visitors if possible.

9. Agreed to continue correspondence with all Churches and Associations with whom we now correspond.

10. On motion Elder Hoyle Simpson was appointed to write Corresponding Letter to be printed in the Minutes of this Association.

11. Unanimously agreed to adjourn until Saturday, September 20th, at 9:30 A. M.

Benediction by Elder J. B. Lord of Dudley, Ga.

SATURDAY A. M.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Association met in the house at 9:30 A. M. After Songs of Praise and Prayer by Bro. J. S. Collins of the Little River Association of N. C., proceeded to business as follows:

12. Called on Finance Committee to report. Reported sent in by Churches and friends, $637.50.

13. By motion unanimously agreed to distribute Corresponding Minutes as usual.

14. Corresponding letter called for, read and adopted.

15. On motion it was unanimously agreed that we hold the 1948 Session of the Association with Liberty Hill Church, Stanly County, North Carolina, beginning on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1948, and continue through Saturday and Sunday, and that the pastor of Liberty Hill Church preach the introductory sermon.

16. On motion agreed that we have 1000 copies of the Minutes printed and distributed to the Churches and Corresponding Associations as usual and that Preston Helms superintend the printing and distributing of same and that we allow $55.00 for services, printing and mailing.

17. By motion we agreed that all funds above $55.00, allowed for printing and distributing minutes, be distributed to ministers.

18. By unanimous agreement the Association returns thanks to God for His Mercy and to the Brethren, Sisters and friends of this church and vicinity for their kind hospitality and entertainment during this meeting of the Association.

19. Agreed to adjourn to time and place above mentioned.

Benediction by Elder E. D. Spiers of Georgia.

ELDER V. V. WILLARD, Moderator.
BROTHER M. C. MILLS, Clerk,
PRESTON HELMS, Assistant Clerk

FRIDAY A. M.

Elder J. R. Wilson. Text: 2 Thes. 2:16-17

FRIDAY P. M.

Elder W. H. Lewis. Text: 2 Peter 3:9
Elder W. E. Cagle. Text: Phil. 2:12-13
Elder H. P. Copeland. No Special Text.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Elder O. J. Huffman. Text: John 14:6
Elder W. H. Oaks. Text: 1 Cor. 15:57

SATURDAY A. M.

Elder T. V. Mann. Failed to get Text.
Elder J. T. Lewis. Text: Phil. 1:29

SATURDAY P. M.

Elder J. B. Lord. Text: 2 Timothy 2:8
Elder J. E. Kitchens. No special text.
Elder Shade Tipton. Text: 1 Peter 1:3-5

SATURDAY NIGHT

Brother J. S. Collins. Text: 1 Timothy 1:15
Elder J. E. Kitchens. Text: Heb. 2:6

SUNDAY A. M.

Elder M. M. Morton. Text: The Deliverer.
Elder E. D. Spiers. Text: Acts 2:38-39
Elder H. P. Copeland. Text: Isaiah 42:4

SUNDAY P. M.

Elder Fred Stewart. Text: Isaiah 46:8-10
Elder J. S. Stephenson. Text: Matthew 5:16

HOME MINISTERS

Elder C. M. Mills, R-1, Box 124, Charlotte, N. C.
Elder V. V. Willard, High Point, N. C.
Elder Hoyle Simpson, R-4, Concord, N. C.
Elder Brooklyn Willard, R-6, Winston-Salem, N. C.
Elder C. H. White, Wadesboro, N. C.

LICENTIATES

Brother Paul Jones, Route 1, Charlotte, N. C.

VISITING MINISTERS

Elder H. P. Copeland, Route 1, Arab, Ala.
Elder J. E. Kitchens, Route 1, Cordova, Ala.
Elder Shade Tipton, Townsend, Tenn.
Elder E. D. Spier, Conley, Ga.
Elder W. E. Cagle, Alpharetta, Ga.
Elder T. V. Mann, 1416 Athens Ave., S. W., Atlanta, Ga.
Elder W. H. Oaks, Route 1, Dry Fork, Va.
Elder F. F. Eggleston, Box 186, Martinsville, Va.
Elder J. D. Hopkins, Box 299, Schoolfield, Va.
Elder W. H. Lewis, Route 1, Ridgeway, Va.
Elder J. R. Wilson, 22 Moss St., Martinsville, Va.
Elder J. T. Lewis, Route 2, Angier, N. C.
Elder J. S. Stephenson, Route 2, Benson, N. C.
Elder E. L. Ferguson, Erwin, N. C.

Licentiate J. S. Collins.
Elder J. B. Lord, Dudley, Ga.
Elder Fred Stewart.
Elder M. M. Morton, Route, Atlanta, Ga.
Elder O. J. Huffman, Asheville, N. C.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Handed in by Churches	$501.00
Handed in by Friends	$136.50
TOTAL	$637.50
Allowed for Printing and Clerk Fee	$ 55.00
Distributed to Ministers	$582.50
TOTAL	$637.50

CORRESPONDING LETTER

To the Churches and Messengers composing the Original Bear Creek Association, and all of our Corresponding and Visiting Brethren, Greetings.

We thank God that we have been blessed again to meet together in peace, love and sweet fellowship. We thank God for the ministers and for the sweet preaching. All came preaching by grace ye are saved, then work out your own salvation which God has worked in you. Our prayer is that we all will continue to labor for peace and truth. Blessed is a peace-maker. We are thankful for each correspondent and each visitor from other Associations. We welcome you to come and visit us any time you can. Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless our coming together at this meeting and if we never meet again in this world, we hope to meet you in a better world where there will be no parting hand.

In Love,

HOYLE SIMPSON

Dear Brethren in Christ, at home and abroad, Greetings:

What the brethren believed and stood for in 1832, when the Association was organized, and from time to time has been clearly set forth in their corresponding letters, as shown in 1895, which letter we publish again. This is the faith of the original Bear Creek Association today. We are still holding to the doctrine and principles set forth herein.

CIRCULAR LETTER

To the Ministers, Messengers, and Correspondence of the Bear Creek Baptist Association, Greetings:

Dearly Beloved in Christ:

It is with much weakness that I attempt a circular address, but as your appointee, with fear and trembling, I will make the attempt, trusting a divine Providence to guide my pen that what I say may be to the edifying and upbuilding of the believers, and to

the honor and glory of God. I will address you concerning the time or common salvation. "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."—Phil., 2nd chapter, 12th verse. This salvation spoken of here does not mean an inheritance in heaven secured by us on accepting Christ on the terms of the gospel as some of our friends would have us believe. If we are so fortunate as to have a home above it was prepared from before the foundation of the world, and we can only attain to that through Christ and his imputed righteousness, God having predestinated us to that happy end. If God has begun a spiritual work in us he will surely complete it unto the day of Jesus Christ. The brethren had obeyed in Paul's presence and he exhorts them to continue steadfast. With deep solicitude he says: "Only how needful then brethren, that we walk in love as dear children."

If we are the children of promise we are the light of the world, and should let our lights shine. This we cannot do while living after the flesh, therefore, "keep yourselves in the love of God." "If ye keep my commandments ye shall abide in my love." One declares that he had no greater joy "than to hear that his children walked in truth." James says, "Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you," and again, Peter says, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as pilgrims and strangers, abstain from fleshy lusts which war against the soul, having your conversation honest among the Gentiles, that they may by your good works which they shall behold glorify God in the day of visitation." Thus do the Apostles as well as our Saviour bear united testimony concerning our deportment toward God. We should learn obedience by their admonitions. If we are diligent and make our calling and election sure by our obedience we shall never fall. Timothy was told to "take heed unto himself and unto the doctrine, to continue in them," and if we do likewise we will both save ourselves and them that hear us. Let us be on our Guard daily and hourly. Believing the Bible does not make a christian careless, neither does it puff them up. Let us all, both young and old, at our leisure get out Bibles and turn to I Corinthians, 10th chapter, and read down to the 12th verse, and see what a sad picture drawn there, and let us profit by their example. "For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense or reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation," wherefore the Holy Ghost said, "Today if ye hear his voice harden not your hearts as in the provocation in the day of temptation in the wilderness, when your fathers tempted me, proved me and saw my works forty years, wherefore I was grieved with that generation (God is not pleased when we sin) and said, they do always err in their hearts and have not known my ways, so I swear in my wrath, they shall not enter into my rest." The writer then turns to us and says, "Take heed brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God." Let us therefore labor to enter into rest through obedience. The welfare of the church, our own individual happiness and the glory of God all demand our continual services. Let us keep ourselves unspotted from the world and go forth unto him who is our friend bearing his reproach thus showing ourselves dead to the world. We should be

strict to attend the stated meetings of our churches but I am pained to see that some of us are very remiss in this very important matter. We should not forsake the assembling of ourselves together but all, as far as circumstances admit, attend our conference and other meetings regular and remember the poor of our churches and not forget our faithful pastor. We are required to administer unto the necessities of our pastor. We should lay aside wordly interest for our brethren. Now to believers out of the church, who trembie and linger around desiring a home with God's children, let me say, come, take the cross, bear the Master's yoke and travel with his humble followers. Don't be deceived with thinking you can live as happy out of duty as in it, for God says, "Ye shall find rest to your souls," and his word is truth. Do not tempt God or listen to Satan. For Satan will tell you that you are too young or that you are not fit, or that God will bring you into the church when he is ready for you. If this last was true then no child of God could ever disobey him by walking out of duty. If we argue that it is not our duty to do a thing until we do it then we would have a cover for everything whether good or bad. So, dear one, in order to do your duty to God you must first deny self.

Your flesh will never be willing for it lusteth against the Spirit. Believers in Christ are commanded to be baptized, and in the keeping of this ordinance they have a peace of mind and ease of conscience, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God. If we neglect to do what we are commanded of him instead blessings we receive chastisement, and instead of the light of his countenance we are left in darkness and sorrow. Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure for the Lord knoweth them that are his. He will never leave them to utterly perish but will rebuke disobedience. May God enable us to ask of him and to walk in him in whatever he commands. If any of us are tempted to sin let us turn away from it. Let us forbear one another in love and speak often one to another. Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord.

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power both now and forever."—Amen.

February 16, 1895. J. W. JONES

ARTICLES OF FAITH

Article 1. We believe in one living and true God; the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost.

Article 2. We believe in the man Jesus being the first of all God's creation and the pattern of all God's perfection in nature, providence, grace and glory, and in relative union with the divine word, and thus united with the whole Trinity.

Article 3. We believe that the scripture of the Old and New Testament contain the only written revealed word of God and the perfect rule of faith and practice for God's Church in her militant state while here on earth.

Article 4. We believe in the doctrine of election; that God chose His Church in Christ Jesus before the world began.

Article 5. We believe in all mankind's apostacy by transgression in Adam, the federal head.

Article 6. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

Article 7. We believe in the impotency of man to recover himself from his fallen state by his own free will and ability.

Article 8. We believe that sinners are justified freely by grace and before God by faith in Christ and His righteousness only.

Article 9. We believe that God's elect or Church shall be called, converted, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit in due time.

Article 10. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace and never really fall away.

Article 11. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are ordinances of Christ's appointment and that believers alone are the subjects of baptism and the only proper communicants of the supper; that the mode of baptism is immersion, and that neither of the ordinances is to be altered or changed by the inventions or opinions of men. We believe in feet washing, as taught by our Saviour in St. John 13: 4-17.

Article 12. We believe that no man as a minister has any right to the administration of any of the ordinances of the gospel except such as are sound in the faith of the gospel, regularly baptized, called of God and have come under the imposition of hands by a regular presbytery.

Article 13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the just and unjust, and a general judgment.

Article 14. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting and the joys of the righteous eternal.

RULES GOVERNING THE ORIGINAL BEAR CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

1st. We understand that at whatever church this Association is being held, that it is being held solely under the authority of that church, just as any other regular or monthly conference.

2nd. That the officers and suffrages of that church shall be the officers and voice of the Association, except as that church may deem prudent to request any member of another church to assist in the business transactions of the Association.

3rd. This Association shall have no authority to pass upon any question of a disciplinary nature except it has first been passed upon by the local churches composing this Association then the work of the churches shall be recognized by the Association.

4th. Any member who endeavors to bring in or inject a disciplinary question that involves fellowship, before it has been passed upon by the local churches, shall be considered out of order by the church with whom the Association is being held, and by the messengers present from the sister churches.

5th. The Association shall be conducted for no purpose other than song, prayer, and preaching services, and no business shall be transacted by the Association except that which is necessary or sets forth the status of each church composing this body in the form of a minute.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	PASTORS AND THEIR ADDRESSES	CLERKS AND THEIR ADDRESSES	Rec. by Exp. and Baptism	Rec'd by Letter	Rec'd by Relation	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Total Membership	Sunday of Meeting	Contributions
Liberty Hill.....	Elder C. M. Mills, Rt. 1, Box 124, Charlotte, N. C.	Ellis Honeycutt, Oakboro, N. C.....	4						1	70	1	$ 37.00
Pleasant Grove...	Elder C. M. Mills, Charlotte, N. C.....	A. E. Broom, Rt. 2, Marshville, N. C...		1			1			55	2	41.00
Union Grove.....	Elder C. M. Mills, Charlotte, N. C.....	Loyd Outen, 1726 Chesnut St., Charlotte, N. C.	7	2			1	1	1	106	2	100.00
Mt. Creek.....	Elder C. M. Mills, Charlotte, N. C.....	G. C. Medlin, Rt. 4, Albemarle, N. C.						1	1	25	3	29.00
Lawyer's Springs.	Elder J. R. Wilson, Martinsville, Va... Elder V. V. Willard, High Point, N. C.	Robert Horne, Peachland, N. C.....	3							79	1	50.00
Union.....	Elder P. J. Washburn, Martinsville, Va.	W. R. Coley, Rt. 1, Belmont, N. C.....				2	1	1	1	27	1	14.00
Bethel.....	Elder C. M. Mills, Charlotte, N. C..... Elder D. B. Willard, High Point, N. C.	W. J. McLamb.....	3					1		49	4	25.00
High Point.....	Elder V. V. Willard, High Point, N. C. Elder J. P. Via, Critz, Va.	H. M. Willard, Marble St..... Winston-Salem, N. C.	2		1			1	1	103	4	44.00
Mills Chapel.....	Elder C. M. Mills, Charlotte, N. C..... Elder D. B. Willard, High Point, N. C.	C. J. Mullis, Kannapolis, N. C.....	6		1					29	3	15.00
Meadow Creek .	Elder C. M. Mills, Charlotte, N. C.....	R. M. Hatley, Oakboro, N. C.....	2							34	1	35.00
Watson.....	Elder C. M. Mills, Charlotte, N. C.....	Preston Helms, Rt. 3, Marshville, N. C.		1			1			33	4	20.00
Pleasant Hill.....	Elder V. V. Willard, High Point, N. C.	W. E. Lucas, 1221 Northwood St..... Greensboro, N. C.	5						1	36	3	31.00
High Hill.....	Elder J. R. Wilson, Martinsville, Va... Elder V. V. Willard, High Point, N. C.	M. C. Mills, Rt. 2, Monroe, N. C.....							1	50	1	60.00
		Handed in by friends										136.50
		Totals	32	4	2	2	4	5	7	696		$637.50

The 1948 Session of The Original Bear Creek Primitive Association will be held with Liberty Hill Church, Stanly County, N. C., beginning Friday before the third Sunday in September and continue for three days.